(c) what are the details of funds that are being allotted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) A length of about 128 Kms. has been added to the NH network in Andhra Pradesh during 2000-2001. Expansion of National Highway network is considered from time to time keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority of porposals and availability of funds. It is not possible to indicate details in advance.

(b) As per assessment a length of 2255 kms. of National Highways is required to be four laned in Andhra Pradesh. The development of NHs including widening is a continuous process and this is done in a phased manner keeping in view traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and the availability of funds.

(c) During 2000-2001, an amount of Rs. 102.38 crore has been provided so far to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the development of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh.

National Highways in Himachal Pradesh

†206. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated and spent during the last year for construction of Shimla-Dharamshala, Pinjor Swarghat, Kala Amb-Paunta Sahib and Hoshiarpur-Mandi National Highways in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) by when these highways are likely to be constructed and what is the estimated amount of expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD). B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Six number of improvement works amounting to Rs. 9.02 crore were sanctioned during the last year on these National

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Highways in the State of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure of Rs. 3.22 crore has been incurred till 31st Janauary, 2001.

(b) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and is being undertaken in phased manner depending upon the availability of funds and inter-se-priority of works.

North-South Transport Corridor

207. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to create an International North-South Transport Corridor;

(b) whether any agreement has been made with Russia and Iran in the matter;

(c) if so, what would be its financial implications;

(d) the time frame fixed for completion of the project;

(e) what would be the length of the proposed corridor; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) An agreement has been signed on 12.9.2000 with Russia and Iran for operationalising North-south Transport Corridor. The financial implications have not been worked out precisely but it is perceived by the trade that the time and cost of moving the goods along this route would come down significantly. The Agreement is valid initially for a period of ten years.

(e) and (f) The Corridor involves the following stretches:—

(i) Indian Ports to Bandar Abbas in Iran By Sea

(ii) Bandar Abbas to Caspian Sea By Rail/Road in Iran

(iii) By Casian sea to Astrakhan in Russia

(iv) Beyond Astrakhan through river system and Railways.